



Student Grading Scale for Grades 6-12

Does Florida have a statewide student grading scale?

Yes. In 1987, the Legislature established a statewide grading scale for public high school students in grades nine through 12, as follows: “A” equals 94 through 100 percent, “B” equals 85 through 93 percent, “C” equals 75 through 84 percent, “D” equals 65 through 74 percent, and “F” equals zero through 64 percent.¹ As of July 1, 2001, that scale was modified:

- ❖ Grade “A” equals 90 through 100 percent, has a grade point average (GPA) value of four, and is defined as “outstanding progress.”
- ❖ Grade “B” equals 80 through 89 percent, has a GPA value of three, and is defined as “above average progress.”
- ❖ Grade “C” equals 70 through 79 percent, has a GPA value of two, and is defined as “average progress.”
- ❖ Grade “D” equals 60 through 69 percent, has a GPA value of one, and is defined as “lowest acceptable progress.”
- ❖ Grade “F” equals zero through 59 percent, has a GPA value of zero, and is defined as “failure.”
- ❖ Grade “I” equals zero percent, has a GPA value of zero, and is defined as “incomplete.”²

In 2006, the Legislature extended the applicability of the scale to public school students in grades 6 through 8. The scale applies to students in grades 6 through 12 regardless of the grade-level configuration of the school in which they attend. The current 10 percentage point range per letter grade is more consistent with the grading scales used by postsecondary institutions and high schools in other states.³

The uniform grading scale enables greater continuity between the middle grades and high school. It enables middle school students to better adjust to the rigors and expectations of high school because the same scale is used to grade all assignments and tests and to determine course completions at all secondary grade-levels.⁴

¹ Section 5, ch. 87-329, L.O.F.; s. 232.2463, F.S. (1988).

² Section 1, ch. 2001-237; s. 232.2463, F.S. (2001).

³ Department of Education, *Florida Department of Education Legislative Review 2001*, at 52 (May 29, 2001), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/gr/pdf/review2001.pdf>.

⁴ Florida Department of Education, *Middle School Reform - Frequently Asked Questions*, http://www.fldoe.org/APlusPlus/FAQ_MS.asp (last visited May 18, 2010).

May additional weights be assigned to grades earned in different courses?

Yes. School districts are authorized to use a weighted grading system for purpose of class ranking.⁵ School districts must give the same weight to college-level dual enrollment courses as advanced placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) courses when ranking students.⁶

For purposes of calculating the grade point average to be used in determining initial eligibility for a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, Florida law requires the Department of Education (DOE) to assign additional weights to grades earned in courses identified in the course code directory as academic dual enrollment courses, AP, pre-IB, IB, pre-AICE, or AICE. DOE may assign additional weights to courses it identifies as containing rigorous academic curriculum and performance standards. The additional weight assigned may not exceed 0.5 per course.⁷

DOE has assigned the full additional weight of 0.5, per year, to AP, Pre-IB, IB, honors, Pre-AICE, AICE, and academic dual enrollment courses. In addition, State University System-approved courses identified as “Level 3” in the course code directory in mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies are also given the additional weight of 0.5.⁸ Thus, for example, if a student received a “B” in AP Calculus, instead of a GPA value of 3 the value would be 3.5.

According to the DOE, the assignment of additional weight is intended to be an incentive for students to enroll in more challenging higher-level courses while pursuing a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.⁹

Where can I get additional information?

Florida Department of Education

Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction
(850) 245-0423
<http://www.fldoe.org/bii/>

Florida House of Representatives

Education Committee
(850) 488-7451
<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

⁵ Section 1003.437, F.S.

⁶ Section 1007.271(16), F.S.

⁷ Section 1009.531(3), F.S.

⁸ Florida Department of Education, *Office of Student Financial Assistance, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program*, <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/gradewt.htm> (last visited May 18, 2010).

⁹ *Id.*